[20th August 1925

Director of Public Health makes any recommendation for carrying out improvements, may I know whether the Government intend to take any direct action in the matter ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I shall consider the suggestion made by the hon. Member."

Working hours, etc., of labourers.

*209 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state, with reference to the answer given to question No. 683 on 27th March 1925, volume XXIII, page 779,—

(*a*) how many days in a month and for how many hours a day on the average the labourers work ;

(*b*) whether cottages or huts are provided for such labourers at the cost of the employers ;

(*c*) if so, how much accommodation is provided for each labourer with or without family ;

(*d*) what arrangements are made in the several plantations for the medical treatment of the labourers and at whose cost ; and

(*e*) if answers on these points cannot be given without calling for elaborate statistics from several plantations, whether Government will be pleased to collect them as soon as convenient for being placed before the House ?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information as to the number of days the labourers work in a month. They work for eight or nine hours a day.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Four persons are usually accommodated in a room 12 ft. × 12 ft. Each family is given a separate room.

(*d*) In some of the larger estates hospitals and dispensaries are provided, while smaller estates utilize the institutions in the adjoining estates. The labourers are given treatment at the cost of the plantations.

(*e*) Does not arise.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know whether the Government have made any rules with regard to the provision of cottages or huts for the coolies ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The Government have made rules and the fixing of 12 × 12 feet as the dimension of each room satisfies the rules."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" The Government think that a room of 12 × 12 feet will satisfy the needs of four persons."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Is there any rule that if the number of persons in a family exceeds 4, they are given more than one room ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " Sometimes."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know why sometimes it is done and sometimes it is not ? "